

REMARKS

The claims remaining in the present application are Claims 2-5. Claim 1 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 3 has been amended. Claims 4 and 5 have been added. The Abstract of the disclosure has been amended. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 2 and 3 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating these claims as allowed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

The Abstract is objected to for informalities. The Applicants have amended the Abstract to allow one to quickly determine the nature and gist of the disclosure, per 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b). The length of the amended Abstract is fewer than 150 words. Applicants request that the Examiner remove the objection to the Abstract.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 3 has been amended to correct an informality. No new matter has been added as a result.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by McGrath et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,457,115 (hereinafter, McGrath). The rejection is moot in light of the cancellation, without prejudice, of Claim 1.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 4 and 5 have been added. Support for new Claims 4 and 5 may be found at least in Figure 3 and in the instant specification from page 17, line 6 – page 19, line 4. No new matter has been added as a result of these new claims.

Applicants respectfully assert that new Claims 4 and 5 are of similar scope as allowed Claims 2 and 3. However, new Claims 4 and 5 are drafted in apparatus form, whereas allowed Claims 2 and 3 are drafted in method format. Applicants respectfully request allowance of new Claims 4 and 5.

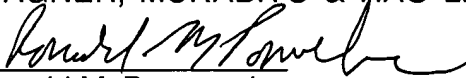
CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed amendments and remarks, allowance of Claims 2-5 is requested.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant response, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,
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